

COUNTY COUNCIL
OF
HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND
BILL NO. 97-78

Introduced by Council President Parrott at the request of the County Executive

Legislative Day No. 97-38 Date December 16, 1997

AN ACT to repeal and reenact with amendments, Subsection C of Section 256-15, Fire Hydrants, and Subsection C of Section 256-19, Service, operation and maintenance charges, and to add new Subsections D, E and F to Section 256-20, Meters, of Article I, General Provisions, of Chapter 256, Water and Sewers, of the Harford County Code, as amended, to impose a charge of no more than \$300 for tampering with, defacing, damaging or otherwise obstructing a fire hydrant; to change the maximum fee for cessation or commencement of service from \$20 to \$50; to impose a fee of no more than \$100 for the unauthorized commencement of water service; to impose a fee of no more than \$300 for water meter tampering; to require that the Department be provided adequate access to County-owned meters located on private property; to authorize turning off water service if adequate access is not provided to County-owned meters on private property; to authorize a fee of no more than \$300 for the unauthorized use of a construction meter; and impose a fee of no more than \$100 for failure to appear for a quarterly reading of a construction meter.

By the Council, December 16, 1997

Introduced, read first time, ordered posted and public hearing scheduled

on: January 20, 1998

at: 7:15 p.m.

By Order: James D. Vamoy, Acting Council Administrator

PUBLIC HEARING

Having been posted and notice of time and place of hearing and title of Bill having been published according to the Charter, a public hearing was held on Jan. 20, 1998 and concluded on, Jan. 20, 1998

James D. Vamoy, Acting Council Administrator

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law. Underlining indicates language added to Bill by amendment. Language lined through indicates matter stricken out of Bill by amendment.

1 Section 1. Be It Enacted by the County Council of Harford County, Maryland, that Subsection
2 C of Section 256-15, Fire Hydrants, and Subsection C of Section 256-19, Service, operation and
3 maintenance charges, are hereby repealed and reenacted with amendments and new Subsections
4 D, E and F are hereby added to Section 256-20, Meters, of Article I, General Provisions, of
5 Chapter 256, Water and Sewers, of the Harford County Code, as amended; all to read as follows:

6 Chapter 256. Water and Sewers

7 Article I. General Provisions

8 Section 256-15. Fire Hydrants.

9 C. No person may use, tamper with, deface, damage or otherwise obstruct the use of
10 any fire hydrant, except as may be provided by law, regulation or permission
11 signed by the Director. THE DIRECTOR SHALL IMPOSE A CHARGE NOT
12 TO EXCEED \$300.00 ON ANY PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS
13 PARAGRAPH.

14 Section 256-19. Service, operation and maintenance charges.

15 C. Charge[s] for commencement [or] AND cessation of service. When a person or
16 property owner requests the cessation [or commencement] of installed service, the
17 Department shall charge a fee, not to exceed [twenty dollars (\$20.)] \$50, that
18 reasonably recovers the total costs to the county for ceasing [or] AND
19 SUBSEQUENTLY commencing the service.

20 Section 256-20. Meters.

21 D. NO PERSON OR ENTITY OTHER THAN THE COUNTY OR ITS
22 AUTHORIZED AGENT MAY COMMENCE WATER SERVICE OR RESTART
23 SERVICE PREVIOUSLY TURNED OFF BY THE COUNTY THROUGH A
24 COUNTY-OWNED WATER METER OR SERVICE OR MODIFY, REPAIR,

1 REMOVE OR OTHERWISE TAMPER WITH THE FUNCTIONING OF A
2 COUNTY-OWNED METER, THE ASSOCIATED VALVE(S), THE METER
3 REGISTER OR ANY PIPE OR OTHER HARDWARE APPURTENANT TO
4 THE METER. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CHARGE A FEE NOT TO
5 EXCEED \$100.00 FOR THE UNAUTHORIZED COMMENCEMENT OR
6 RESTARTING OF WATER SERVICE AND A FEE NOT TO EXCEED \$300.00
7 FOR TAMPERING WITH A METER OR ITS APPURTENANCES.

8 E. WHERE A METER IS LOCATED ON PRIVATE PROPERTY, THE
9 PROPERTY OWNER SHALL PROVIDE SUFFICIENT ACCESS TO THE
10 METER TO ALLOW THE DEPARTMENT TO READ, MAINTAIN, REPAIR
11 AND/OR CHECK THE METER AND ANY PIPE OR EQUIPMENT
12 APPURTENANT TO THE METER. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE
13 WRITTEN NOTICE TO THE OWNER OF ANY PROPERTY AT WHICH IT IS
14 UNABLE TO ACCESS A METER OR ITS APPURTENANCES. THE NOTICE
15 SHALL SPECIFY THE OBSTRUCTION OR OTHER OBSTACLE
16 PREVENTING ACCESS AND SHALL PROVIDE A REASONABLE TIME
17 WITHIN WHICH THE OBSTRUCTION OR OBSTACLE IS TO BE REMOVED.
18 IN THE EVENT THAT THE OBSTRUCTION OR OTHER OBSTACLE IS NOT
19 REMOVED WITHIN THE SPECIFIED TIME, THE DEPARTMENT MAY
20 TURN OFF THE WATER TO THE PROPERTY IN QUESTION, AND THE
21 WATER SHALL NOT BE TURNED ON AGAIN UNTIL ADEQUATE ACCESS
22 IS PROVIDED AND ANY APPLICABLE TURN-OFF FEE OR TURN-ON FEE
23 IS PAID.

1 F. THE DEPARTMENT MAY, AT ITS DISCRETION AND IN ACCORDANCE
2 WITH SUCH PROCEDURES AS IT MAY ESTABLISH, AUTHORIZE THE
3 USE OF A PRIVATELY OWNED CONSTRUCTION METER OR ENTER INTO
4 AN AGREEMENT WITH A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL OR OTHER ENTITY
5 FOR THE RENTAL OF A COUNTY-OWNED TEMPORARY OR
6 CONSTRUCTION METER FOR THE PURPOSE OF DRAWING WATER
7 FROM A COUNTY FIRE HYDRANT. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
8 CHARGE A FEE OF NO MORE THAN \$300.00 FOR THE UNAUTHORIZED
9 USE OF A METER AND A FEE OF NO MORE THAN \$100.00 FOR FAILURE
10 TO APPEAR FOR A QUARTERLY READING OF A TEMPORARY OR
11 CONSTRUCTION METER.

12 Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted that this Act Shall take effect sixty (60) calendar days from
13 the date it becomes law.

EFFECTIVE: March 30, 1998

*The Council Administrator does hereby certify that
fifteen (15) copies of this Bill are immediately available for
distribution to the public and the press.*

James D. Vannoy
Acting Council Administrator

HARFORD COUNTY BILL NO. 97-78(Brief Title) Water Meters and Equipment -Fines for Tampering, Obstruction, etc.

is herewith submitted to the County Council of Harford County for enrollment as being the text as finally passed.

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT

ENROLLED

James D. Vannoy

Acting Council Administrator

James S. Parrott

President of the Council

Date January 20, 1998Date Jan. 20, 1998

BY THE COUNCIL

Read the third time.

Passed: LSD 98-3 (January 20, 1998)

Failed of Passage: _____

By Order

James D. Vannoy

Acting Council Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 22nd day of January, 1998 at 3:00 p.m.

James D. Vannoy

Acting Council Administrator

BY THE EXECUTIVE

Colleen M. Rehmann

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

APPROVED: Date January 27, 1998

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill (No. 97-78), having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, becomes law on January 27, 1998.

James D. Vannoy

Acting Council Administrator

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 30, 1998